

University of Groningen

Advancing the right to health care in China

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Propositions

1. Despite the growing legal recognition of the right to health (care), empirical evidence suggests that the domestic implementation of this right around the globe remains largely rhetorical.
2. Considerable gaps exist between de jure and de facto implementation of the right to health care in China.
3. The unequal treatment of individuals based on their social status results in de facto discrimination regarding equal access to health care in China.
4. Without accountability, the right to health runs the risk of becoming an empty promise.
5. Accountability extends beyond holding State actors accountable through free elections; it also exists in non-electoral, single-party regimes such as China.
6. Accountability, giving ‘teeth’ to human rights, is a powerful tool for advancing the right to health care within China’s unique legal, political and social framework.
7. The Chinese draft Basic Health Law provides a unique opportunity to formally recognise the right to health (care) in China’s domestic legal system and to improve the implementation of this right through various forms of accountability.
8. The core content of the right to health care, i.e. the core obligations of immediate effect and non-derogable core obligations, should be clearly defined in the Chinese draft Basic Health Law.
9. Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love (言善信，心善渊，与善仁). (Lao Tzu)
10. Doing a PhD is probably a ‘violation’ of the right to health.
11. Before coming to Groningen I used the Chinese search engine Baidu, which suggested that the weather in Groningen is just like Kunming, a Chinese city with year-round balmy weather. Baidu is a liar.